

I-5 – South King County Projects Update

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Construction Update

Last Thursday night, crews set the four 100-ton concrete girders for the new S. 317th Street bridge (photo link) over southbound I-5. On Friday morning workers were already starting construction on the bridge deck, placing pre-cast concrete panels (photo link) on top of the girders.

Sound Transit's new Federal Way Transit Center (photo link) is coming along. Concrete has been poured and set for the first two of five levels, and crews will pour the third level this month. We've completed excavation for and have begun building a large detention vault, and we'll be installing two water quality filtration vaults as well.

Last night crews closed the northbound I-5 on-ramp from westbound S. 320th to set barrier. Crews continue construction on the wall (photo link) on the left side of the southbound exit ramp to S. 320th, as well as installing temporary lighting and permanent drainage in this area.

Crews also did some safety work on the temporary roadway last week. We replaced the impact attenuator and installed pylons at the point where the four lanes of I-5 split around the South 320th median bridge support. The pylons, existing warning signs and solid lane striping remind drivers to stay in their lane as they drive through the construction zone. The attenuator protects vehicles from hitting the concrete barrier in front of the bridge support.

Crews also continue widening work on the northbound I-5 bridge over Military Road. We finished guardrail installation there last week.

I-5 HOV Project

As part of the I-5 – S. 317th HOV Direct Access project, we're extending the I-5 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes from their current end at Military Road to just south of S. 320th Street. This work is very important, as it will allow buses, carpools and vanpools to access the new Federal Way Transit Center directly from the HOV lanes. However, it is a relatively small improvement compared to our regional HOV plan.

WSDOT plans to build a comprehensive [HOV lane system](#) for the entire Puget Sound region. When the system is complete, there will be continuous HOV lanes in both directions of I-5 from downtown Seattle to the Pierce County line – and beyond, depending on funding.

Sound Transit plays a very important part in WSDOT's comprehensive HOV plan. We're working together to build nine HOV direct access interchanges throughout the Puget Sound region, like the one at S. 317th Street in Federal Way.

One section of WSDOT's comprehensive HOV plan stretches from the Pierce County line to Tukwila on I-5. This section is divided into ten stages. We are about to begin construction on stage four this spring.

To summarize, the HOV improvements are organized in levels as follows:

- Puget Sound region HOV lane system plan
 - Pierce County Line to Tukwila HOV project
 - Stage four of Pierce County Line to Tukwila HOV project

During [stage four](#) of the Pierce County line to Tukwila project, we will add four miles of HOV lanes in both directions of I-5 from S. 320th Street to the Pierce County line. This will extend from the work we're already doing under the S. 317th HOV Direct Access project.

Extending HOV lanes will help provide reliable travel times and faster trips for those who choose to carpool, vanpool or take the bus. HOV lanes also help free up space for drivers in other lanes, improving commutes for everyone.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to **AM 1520** to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.

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